



## OHMVR COMMISSION MEETING Graeagle, CA 96103-1466

June 3, 2016

**STAFF REPORT:** General Plans Update  
**STAFF:** Dan Canfield, Planning Manager  
**SUBJECT:** Status of General Plans for State Vehicular Recreation Areas

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### Summary

Several of the State Vehicular Recreation Areas (SVRAs) are in the process of updating their park general plans. A general plan directs the long-range development and management of a park unit by providing broad policy and program guidance. This guidance is essential to the SVRA managers and staff, and is of value to those organizations and individuals who have an interest in the SVRA. SVRAs must have an approved general plan before funding can be appropriated for any major capital outlay projects to build new facilities in a park unit.

### Discussion

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5002.2, California State Parks is generally required to prepare general plans for units of the State Park System (e.g., SVRAs) prior to the development of new facilities that require a permanent commitment of resources. A table identifying the status of the SVRA general plans is provided as an attachment to this report (see Attachment 1).

Following is a brief summary of recent SVRA general plan developments.

#### ***Ocotillo Wells SVRA:***

The Ocotillo Wells SVRA General Plan team, in collaboration with Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office staff, is currently preparing the Preliminary Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan (General Plan/Recreation Area Management Plan/Land Use Plan Amendment). In fact, the Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan will actually be three plans in one. This planning approach is necessitated by the substantial federal land ownership component at Ocotillo Wells SVRA. To ensure compliance with both state and federal land management policies, the long-term land management plan for Ocotillo Wells SVRA will be comprised of:

- a California State Park unit General Plan,
- a Bureau of Land Management Recreation Area Management Plan, and
- a California Desert Conservation Area Land Use Plan Amendment.

An Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will also be prepared that addresses the potential environmental impacts of the Ocotillo Wells SVRA Plan, proposed alternatives, and potential mitigation measures.

***Carnegie SVRA:***

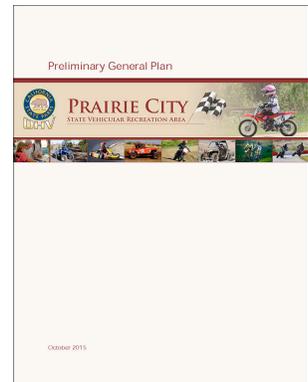
On February 4, 2016, the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Commission toured Carnegie SVRA and then on February 5, 2016, the OHMVR Commission met in Tracy, California. The tour provided an excellent overview of the recreation and resources programs ongoing at Carnegie SVRA as well as the great potential offered for ecologically sustainable OHV recreation and resource conservation by the Carnegie SVRA expansion area.

At the Commission meeting in Tracy, California, over 60 speakers provided testimony relative to the Carnegie SVRA General Plan/EIR. Many of the speakers provided additional written comments in support of their testimony. The feedback received at the February 5<sup>th</sup> OHMVR Commission hearing is currently being incorporated into the Carnegie SVRA General Plan/EIR. The General Plan team will respond to the comments and provide edits to the General Plan/EIR where appropriate. Once this process is complete, a Draft General Plan and Final EIR will be posted to the project website accompanied by an email notification. An OHMVR Commission meeting will then be scheduled for the Commission to consider approval of the Carnegie SVRA General Plan/EIR. The OHMVR Commission meeting will be preceded by a 30-day public notice and is anticipated to occur in summer 2016.

***Prairie City SVRA:***

The Prairie City SVRA Preliminary General Plan and associated Draft EIR were circulated for public review from October 26, 2015, through December 9, 2015. Approximately 20 comments were received from individuals, organizations, and agencies.

The planning team is currently preparing the Final EIR that will include responses to all comments received and any changes proposed to the Preliminary General Plan and Draft EIR.



***Hungry Valley SVRA:***

The Hungry Valley SVRA General Plan team created a project website at [www.PlanHungryValley.com](http://www.PlanHungryValley.com) to facilitate public involvement in the planning process. Interested parties should visit the project website and register to receive email notifications regarding project progress.

Onsite visitor surveys are scheduled to occur over the 2016 Memorial Day weekend.

**Commission Action**

For information only.

**Attachments**

Attachment 1: SVRA General Plans Update – May 2016

**CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS**

**OHMVR DIVISION**

State Vehicular Recreation Area General Plans Update  
May 2016

Park Unit	Adopted	Amended	General Plan (GP) Status & Updates in Progress
Carnegie SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress. OHMVR Commission Hearing conducted on <i>Proposed</i> Final Environmental Impact Report in February 2016.
Clay Pit SVRA	2012	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission June 2012.
Eastern Kern County, Onyx Ranch SVRA	-	-	GP pending funding.
Heber Dunes SVRA	2011	-	Approved by the OHMVR Commission December 2011.
Hollister Hills SVRA	1978	2003	-
Hungry Valley SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress. Project website and visitor survey being prepared.
Oceano Dunes SVRA	1975	1991	-
Ocotillo Wells SVRA	1981	-	GP update in progress including newly acquired properties. GP update includes federal component in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management.
Prairie City SVRA	1991	-	GP update in progress. Final Environmental Impact Report being prepared for publication.